

BERSERK REBEL GREW TOUGH, HA!

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Not being the sort of publication that normally covers mainstream events, we were a bit puzzled when the White House recently requested that we attend an interview with President Bush. Nevertheless, we contacted a subscriber living nearby, Carol Montheim, who graciously agreed to do the interview. Upon her arrival at the White House, the mystery was cleared up: President Bush had lost his voice in an hour-long shouting match with Dan Rather which was never aired.

Standing at the podium, with GEORGE HERBERT WALKER BUSH in large letters behind him, the President refused to talk and instead answered all questions by spelling out messages with these letters. He insisted on constructing perfect anagrams, using all the letters in his full name, or all the letters in the shorter versions GEORGE BUSH, GEORGE HERBERT BUSH, or GEORGE HERBERT W. BUSH.

Many of the President's remarks seem cryptic, but he was severely constrained. When discussing his rival in the recent election, he could not use a D for DUKE or DUKAKIS, and you will see that he frequently called him a GREEK. To use up extra letters, he sometimes used terms like GREEK BUGLER (since Governor Dukakis was known to play the trumpet at campaign appearances). Our correspondent wanted to make it clear that no ethnic or other insult was intended here. Similarly, lacking an M to discuss the HOMELESS, President Bush was obligated to use BEGGAR.

Our volunteer reporter rose to the occasion, helping complete many anagrams when the President's intentions became clear for each one. The resulting interview, taking many hours to complete, is a freewheeling discussion covering many topics. Truly, this interview proves that President Bush is a man of letters.

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Let's start off with the 1988 election. In short, why did Governor Dukakis's last-minute "surge" fail? Was it any particular advertising campaign of yours?

"The Harbor" blew Greek surge.

Was there a secret to your performance in the debates? Is it true that you ate onion-laden hamburgers just before meeting him on stage?

Oh, burger breath slew Greek.

I see. Do you have any other favorite on-the-road sandwiches?

Egg hero sub.

Back to the election. You claimed that Dukakis has a visceral dis-

like of the use of military force and a specific dislike for the contras. Do you stand by that?

War, rebels bother Greek. Ugh!

Dukakis was fairly subdued in his criticism of you. Did that cause you to lose respect for him?

Abhor Greek; he grew subtler.

And when he finally did get tough, some think he didn't do it well. Did this lose the presidency for him?

Greek barbs threw huge role.

Which factor do you think was more important, Dukakis's rejection by white-collar voters or the blue-collar vote?

Whether Greek bugs laborer.

What's it like living in the White House? How has your wife's social life changed?

Her lobster-bake grew huger.

And Governor Dukakis is said to have sent a Boston-raised lobster to her as a peace offering?

Greek grew her a Hub lobster.

I understand that Mrs. Bush's publicist is most upset that she's put on some weight.

Her bulk grew greater; he sob.

And you've said to have advised her to try a diet of herbal tea. How did you suggest this to her?

Brew herbs or get huge.

But she's said to be particular about the way it's made?

"George, brew herb thus."

What did she find most amusing during the campaign?

Greek brows be her laughter.

Is she enjoying entertaining guests?

The buggers bore her.

Well, I'm sure she's looking forward to Thanksgiving in the White House.

Hurrah! Greet gobblers' week.

However, I hear that her color scheme is expected to offend the official White House turkey. Are you sorry about that?

Hark, gobblers, we regret hue.

While we're on the subject of women, do you think the Constitution will be amended to prevent sex discrimination? Will women continue to make inroads in the workplace?

Her struggle, ERA ebb; he work.

Well, the task of landscaping the White House grounds must be a delight. What are you planning?

Grow, e.g., bush, herb, tree.

What's been planted in the past?

Bush, tree, large herb grew OK.

It's said you have a somewhat manic gardener from North Carolina, and that he's done grafts nobody else could do?

Berserk Tarheel grew bough.

Inside the White House, you're said to have designed a bedroom to reflect your years on Navy ships?

Bulwark: George berths here.

Can we spend a little time on the fraternity experience during your college years? I understand that you feel the quality of applicants is not what it used to be.

Greek rush gather lower ebb.

Supposedly your "rush" was an unusually wild one, due to a shortage of beer. Apparently this is quite an infraction of the rules?

Eager brother blew "rush keg".

Greek rush be law, e.g., brother.

Beer shortage? Hurl brew keg.

Gee, the rough berserk brawl.

Obviously, beer was a principal part of the frat scene. Did you brew your own?

Brew beer? Gosh, the rug!

But you at least got it fresh from the brewery?

Brewer's barrel: huge hot keg.

Huge, hot, berserk lager brew.

Now that the election is behind us, how do you rationalize the change from acrimony to harmony between you and Governor Dukakis?

Berserk blather, ergo we hug.

Do you sometimes lunch together?

Greek bugler, we share broth.

Did the Governor bring you anything as a peace offering?

Greek healer brought brews.

Brought keg: rare Welsh beer.

Was the beer a little weak for your taste?

Urge bloke: get harsher brew.

Was it much work to talk him into showing solidarity with you?

We beg Greek: Bolster! Hurrah!

In fact, Dukakis may be a force in the 1992 election. Apparently his long-time advisor Susan Estrich is taking a scientific approach to producing a candidate who'll fight.

Her lab brews tougher Greek.

Woe: Greek get harsher blurb.

He regrets rough ebb.

How do the southern Democrats feel about Dukakis?

He bugs Gore.

And what will be the major factor in whether he can be nominated again?

Whether bugler breaks Gore.

There are rumors that when you've overdone it at bedtime tea, you have nightmares of the possible repercussions of all the character assassination.

Rue herbal brew: Greek ghost!

While we're on the topic of ghosts, it's said that there are some familiar ghosts haunting Washington. Have you seen any?

Burr ghost, e.g., be here.

Good old Aaron! Does he have any advice for you?

Be the hero, Burr eggs.

Any Supreme Court justices?

Burger ghost be here.

Not dead yet, and already haunting you! Do you enjoy these ap-

pearances?

Bah, we regret berserk ghoul.

I hear you called on the Ghostbusters team, but then decided to borrow the paranormal unit from the Israeli mossad. How do they work?

Hebrew ghostbuster: Luger.

Turning to domestic issues, how did you portray the Governor's home state, as far as treatment of criminals is concerned?

Where robber gets hug.

Does the typical burglar steal from big business, or more from Mom-and-Pop restaurants?

He robs "Get Grub Here".

And how do you think the average American wants such criminals treated?

Beg hero: "Skewer the burglar!"

When a house has no NRA sticker in the window, what message do you think this sends to the criminal element?

Rob the buggers here.

What would have helped your campaign even more than Willie Horton?

Burglar bothers Greek--whee!

Could anything even more helpful have come out?

Short Greek be burglar--whee!

I understand you have nightmares about your wife's safety. What happens in these dreams?

Huge robbers get her.

Still on the domestic front, let's discuss the homeless. There are accusations that you are simply tossing them overboard because of lack of funds.

We're broke; hurl the beggars.

And, incredibly, one of your staff is said to have urged them to make a living recycling toothpaste?

We're broke: gather brush gel.

Do you feel that shelters attract an undesirable element?

Berth lures beggar who reek.

Governors face this problem much more directly than the federal government. If you were the Massachusetts governor, what preconditions would you require before helping someone?

Work ere Hub shelter, beggar.

Is it true that some federal agencies have been instructed to spy on charismatic leaders of the homeless movement such as Jesse Jackson, wherever they bed down for the night?

Beggar heroes berth; we lurk.

Lastly, there are rumors that you are planning to feed America's hungry with foods based on insects. Have your labs improved this vile-tasting stuff?

Oh, gee, grubs?

Harsher beetle grub grew OK.

Let's turn to those who do have jobs. Despite being a card-carrying union member, do you feel that the union movement is out of control?

The Labor grew huge, berserk.

So you think that politicizing an employee can lead them down the

road to corruption?

Gee! Worker...rebel...brash thug.

Do you favor job protection for the handicapped in the workplace?

He buggers the abler worker.

Let's turn to the drug issue, specifically to marijuana. I understand that some emerging nations are being hurt by America's crack-down on drugs, because marijuana is an important cash crop. Have growers complained to you?

Herb grower beg the US.

So it's large-scale producers you're trying to nab?

Bale-grower get berserk, huh?

Does that mean if states legalize growing marijuana for personal use, you'll go along with that?

Beg the user: "Grow herb".

It's alleged that in one state's test program, one naive monastery resident misunderstood that exhortation?

Brother Luke grew "herb": sage.

There are even rumors of secret research programs to help the closet grower. Is it true that the government has found "grow lights" to be more effective when they flash rapidly?

Strobe grew huge herb.

Let's turn to environmental issues. Do you see the blue-collar vote as a whole placing more emphasis on environmental protection? Or is it more the concern of the labor activist?

Worker rebel begs "hug earth".

And your response to this?

Oh, bawl, berserk tree hugger.

What kind of economic expansion will most help the world?

A berserk growth bulge here.

Many see a trade-off between economic growth and preserving our resources. Do you see a trend toward preservation?

Ere berserk growth bulge? Ha!

Given the need to keep South American rain forests intact, thus limiting beef production, where do you see places like McDonald's and Wendy's getting their meat?

Burger broker, he gets whale.

But many feel the whales should be protected as well. Will you patronize these restaurants? What if Burger King and that nerd in their ad campaigns stick with American-grown beef?

Oh, we get Herb's burger.

There's a lot of concern about the global warming trend. Is it true that the government has been approached by ice pirates who steal chunks from the polar caps and tote them around the ocean, selling both fresh water and cold?

Weather broker: he lugs berg.

Do you feel this is legal? Does the law of the sea prevent this for such large icebergs?

Huge bergs: err. Broke the law.

Yet you are rumored to have negotiated deals with these people. When did you stop thinking this was immoral?

Ere he brought bergs.

Next I would like to find out your opinion of insider trading and other ethical problems in investing. I understand that convicted arbitrageurs are swelling the ranks of the homeless in the DC area. Supposedly, a new shelter had to be constructed just for them. Are you proud of this?

We brag: huge broker shelter.

Well, I guess "shelter" takes on a new meaning when you drop a few tax brackets. How do you feel about the downfallen Ivan Boesky and his ilk?

Broker...hustler...beggar--whee!

So you have little pity for those who brought this on themselves?

Laughter where broker begs.

Yet, some of these people don't take well to being kicked when they're down?

Beware--brokers hurl the egg.

One of the great challenges of your term will be the AIDS epidemic. Can you give some examples of how you'll be fighting this menace?

E.g., health workers; e.g., rubber.

You mention condoms. One of the problems that needs publicizing is the adverse effects of certain lubricants on latex condoms. Can you tell us, for example, what you'll do about this?

E.g., rework rubber sheath gel.

Will you be supporting public service ads to warn people of this until the reformulation is done? Perhaps some analogy with the classic character Achilles warning the viewer?

Greek hero: gels thaw rubber.

Any more dramatic commercials? You know, sixty-second mini-dramas to get the point across?

He err: gel...weak rubber...ghost.

On a more pleasant subject, you're looking forward to being able to open the baseball season. You're supposedly too modest about your mean breaking pitch.

[Blush] George threw breaker.

Do you feel the game is too commercialized, with noisy vendors?

Beer hawkers bother slugger.

What four things are, for you, the essence of baseball?

Hawker, beer, slugger, the orb.

The Iran-Contra controversy wasn't discussed much during the campaign. Was there anyone in particular you had to request silence from?

Beg Roger Ebert: "Hush!"

How, exactly, did you communicate this to him? In writing?

Wrote "Err, hush, beg, beg".

Tell us what you can about Oliver North's role in this.

He grew brutal, he go berserk.

The phrase "Mistakes were made" has been used a lot. Do you think that the term "mistake" implies lack of guilt?

Bugger errs; he broke the law.

So what is the crucial question if it comes to trial?

Whether beggar broke rules.

Did Colonel North ask you to use covert measures to forcibly bring some Israeli witnesses who can't be brought to the US even with a subpoena?

He beg "Go lurk, arrest Hebrew".

Have you advised Colonel North to use an insanity defense?

Beg "Although berserk, we err".

All in all, how do you feel the White House's reputation has held up in this scandal?

A berserk blot grew here. Ugh!

We should talk about the international scene. What new alliances do you see emerging?

Hebrew, Greek, Gaul: brothers.

What kind of dealings do you see among the first two?

Hebrew laborer, Greek thugs.

Hebrew, Greek ghouls barter.

Hebrew sought Greek barrel.

Greek brought Hebrew laser.

Rougher Hebrew blast Greek.

Sounds confusing. How do you see the French role in this?

Slaughter Hebrew, rob Greek.

Israel is a perennial issue in American foreign policy. Do you feel that Congress has saddled you with this?

"Let George rub Hebrew shark".

Do you plan to address the Israelis in their own tongue, however badly you speak it? Even a little profanity to show you mean business?

George Bush talk Hebrew, err.

Gurgle berserk Hebrew oath.

Do you see James Baker, your Secretary of State, as the one who will end the Middle East crisis?

Hero break Hebrew struggle.

Hebrew struggle: Baker hero.

I'm told you've been counseled to accept extremist Israeli factions, but not immediately.

Go urge berserk Hebrew "Halt!"

Later, go hug berserk Hebrew.

During the Iran-Contra hearings, it was revealed that one of the Iranian negotiators had foul breath. Did this happen in negotiations with the Israelis, too?

Gargle, thou berserk Hebrew.

Since Mrs. Dukakis is Jewish, what do you think of the Governor and his wife as ambassadors to Israel?

Great bugler, kosher Hebrew.

A short Greek bugler, Hebrew.

Greek bugler, oh Hebrew star.

Although superpower tensions are reduced, the risk of world war is still with us. Do you feel that the MAD doctrine is sane?

Globe War Three? Berserk. Ugh!

How would we survive after such a war?

There we go, grub herbs.

Yet, it's said that every society's ruins produce new life, every

decay produces something. Do you agree?

Greek rubble grows heather.

You've now had a second run-in with Dan Rather. Can you summarize it for us?

Rather blew! Berserk ego! Ugh!

Have you spoken to his supervisor about this display of temper?

He rebukes Rather: growl, beg.

Do you feel that Governor Dukakis should face the same kind of tough questioning?

Who be Greek bugler's Rather?

Well, it is hard to talk the media into confrontations. Did you ask Mr. Rather to be equally tough on Dukakis?

Oh, beg Rather "Skewer bugler".

You have claimed that Rather helps the Israelis with their surveillance of bars frequented by reporters.

Rather's Hebrew role: bug keg.

But he apparently has been unable to get the Israelis to supply him with a weapon for this work?

Rather begs Hebrew "Luger, OK?"

Perhaps this is a little early to ask, but what do you plan to do when your term is over?

Go berserk; urge health brew.

So you'll be promoting a line of health drinks?

"Ethereal Rush": grew, grok, ebb.

That sounds rather New Age. Is this yet another vitamin mix with supposed aphrodisiac powers?

Brew herb. Oh, get urges.

And does this drink have a slogan?

"Brew Eros' herb, get hug".

We've heard reports that the container needs to be massaged to give the drink its full impact, and that the drink needs some tender, loving care to keep its "charge"?

Rub keg: release growth herb.

Hug keg: restore herbal brew.